

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides multi-device distributed digital video recording systems and methods. The present invention enables digital recording devices on a cable plant to share resources. A plurality of networked digital video recorders are provided. A requesting  
5 digital video recorder (DVR) on the network may be capable of broadcasting a request to a plurality of DVRs seeking resources of a dormant DVR. At least one dormant DVR on the network may be capable of providing a response to the requesting DVR indicating its availability of resources. The requesting DVR may then select a granting DVR from the dormant DVRs with available resources (i.e., those DVRs that responded to the request). A  
10 session may then be established between the requesting DVR and the granting DVR. Once the session is established, the resources of the granting DVR may be made available for use by the requesting DVR.

November 6, 2003